

09/848,004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 31-34 are canceled. New claims 35-47 are added. Accordingly, claims 35-47 are pending.

Claim 35 recites a check processing apparatus comprising an image capture transport including (i) an image capture device for capturing images of physical checks, and (ii) a controller for providing information relating to physical checks which have been processed at the image capture transport. The check processing apparatus further comprises an encoding transport including a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoder for encoding MICR codelines onto physical checks, a first communication interface for (i) receiving information provided by the image capture transport, and (ii) wirelessly transmitting electronic messages based upon information received from the image capture transport, a physical receptacle for (i) containing physical checks which have been processed at the image capture transport, and (ii) allowing the physical receptacle along with physical checks contained therein to be physically transported from the image capture transport to the encoding transport for encoding MICR codelines onto the physical checks at the encoding transport, and an electronic label affixed to the physical receptacle and including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) a second communication interface for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from the first communication interface, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface so as to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the physical receptacle when the physical receptacle along with the physical checks contained therein are physically transported from the image capture transport to the encoding transport.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a check processing apparatus comprising, inter alia, "an electronic label affixed to the physical receptacle and including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) a

09/848,004

second communication interface for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from the first communication interface, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface so as to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the physical receptacle when the physical receptacle along with the physical checks contained therein are physically transported from the image capture transport to the encoding transport.” Thus, claim 35 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Applicant would like to respectfully point out that even if Copenhaver et al. (“Copenhaver”) were to be modified in view of Yamanaka et al. (“Yamanaka”), and further in view of Boss, and still further in view of Vraa et al. (“Vraa”), this modified structure would not result in the structure recited in claim 35 of the present application. More specifically, for example, the modified structure of the proposed combination would not have “an electronic label...including...a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface...” as recited in claim 35 of the present application. In this regard, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that an RFID transponder, such as disclosed in Vraa, has no processor for causing a physical display to display a visual message.

If the Examiner continues to reject claim 35 of the present application by continuing to make the proposed combination of Copenhaver, Yamanaka, Boss, and Vraa, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner explain how the resulting modified structure would include an electronic label which has the structure and operation as recited in claim 35. Absent an adequate explanation, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Claim 36 depends from claim 35 and is allowable for the reasons claim 35 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 36 further recites that the electronic label includes a first manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor

09/848,004

and for, when manually operated, directs the processor to cause the physical display to display information in sequential screens. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 36 in combination with the structure recited in claim 35. Thus, claim 36 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 37 depends from claim 36 and is allowable for the reasons claim 36 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 37 further recites that the electronic label includes a second manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, allows an operator to send a signal to the first communication interface. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 37 in combination with the structure recited in claim 36. Thus, claim 37 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 38 depends from claim 35 and is allowable for the reasons claim 35 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 38 further recites that the electronic label further includes an alerter electronically coupled to the processor and for, when driven by the processor, provides an audible alert signal. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 38 in combination with the structure recited in claim 35. Thus, claim 38 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 39 recites a check processing apparatus comprising a first check processing station including (i) a reader for reading magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codelines of physical checks, (ii) a controller for providing information relating to physical checks which have been processed, and (iii) a physical display for displaying information which relates to at least some of the physical checks which have been processed. The check processing apparatus further comprises a first communication interface for (i) receiving

09/848,004

information provided by the first check processing station, and (ii) wirelessly transmitting electronic messages based upon information received from the first check processing station; a physical receptacle for (i) containing physical checks which have been processed at the first check processing station, and (ii) allowing the physical receptacle along with physical checks contained therein to be physically transported from the first check processing station to a second check processing station for further processing of the physical checks at the second check processing station, and an electronic label affixed to the physical receptacle and including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) a second communication interface for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from the first communication interface, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display of the electronic label to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the physical receptacle so that the information which relates to the at least some of the physical checks which have been processed at the first check processing station can be viewed on either the physical display of the electronic label or the physical display of the first check processing station.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a check processing apparatus comprising, inter alia, "an electronic label affixed to the physical receptacle and including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) a second communication interface for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from the first communication interface, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display of the electronic label to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the physical receptacle so that the information which relates to the at least some of the physical checks which have been processed at the first check processing station can be viewed on either the physical display of the electronic label or the physical display of the first check processing station." Thus, claim 39 patentably defines over the prior art including the

09/848,004

prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Applicant would like to respectfully point out that even if Copenhaver et al. ("Copenhaver") were to be modified in view of Yamanaka et al. ("Yamanaka"), and further in view of Boss, and still further in view of Vraa et al. ("Vraa"), this modified structure would not result in the structure recited in claim 39 of the present application. More specifically, for example, the modified structure of the proposed combination would not have an "an electronic label... including... a processor for causing the physical display of the electronic label to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface..." as recited in claim 39 of the present application. In this regard, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that an RFID transponder, such as disclosed in Vraa, has no processor for causing a physical display to display a visual message.

If the Examiner continues to reject claim 39 of the present application by continuing to make the proposed combination of Copenhaver, Yamanaka, Boss, and Vraa, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner explain how the resulting modified structure would include an electronic label which has the structure and operation as recited in claim 39. Absent an adequate explanation, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Claim 40 depends from claim 39 and is allowable for the reasons claim 39 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 40 further recites that the electronic label includes a first manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, directs the processor to cause the physical display of the electronic label to display information in sequential screens. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 40 in combination with the structure recited in claim 39. Thus, claim 40 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

09/848,004

Claim 41 depends from claim 40 and is allowable for the reasons claim 40 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 41 further recites that the electronic label includes a second manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, allows an operator to send a signal to the first communication interface. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 41 in combination with the structure recited in claim 40. Thus, claim 41 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 42 depends from claim 39 and is allowable for the reasons claim 39 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 42 further recites that the electronic label further includes an alerter electronically coupled to the processor and for, when driven by the processor, provides an audible alert signal. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 42 in combination with the structure recited in claim 39. Thus, claim 42 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 43 recites a check processing apparatus for enabling an operator to physically transport physical checks from a first check processing station which sorts physical checks into a plurality of physical sorting locations and which provides information relating to sorted physical checks to a second check processing station which encodes magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codelines onto physical checks. The check processing apparatus comprises a plurality of physical check document trays for (i) containing physical checks which have been sorted into the plurality of physical sorting locations at the first check processing station, (ii) allowing physical checks to be physically moved from each of the plurality of physical sorting locations into a corresponding one of the plurality of physical check document trays, and (iii) allowing the plurality of physical check document trays along with physical checks contained therein to be physically transported from the first check processing station to the second check processing station for encoding MICR codelines onto

09/848,004

the physical checks at the second check processing station. The check processing apparatus further comprises a plurality of electronic labels associated with the plurality of physical check document trays such that each of the plurality of electronic labels is affixed to a corresponding one of the plurality of physical check document trays, each of the plurality of electronic labels including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) communication circuitry for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from a communication interface of the first check processing station, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the communication interface of the first check processing station to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the corresponding physical check document tray.

None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests a check processing apparatus for enabling an operator to physically transport physical checks from a first check processing station which sorts physical checks into a plurality of physical sorting locations and which provides information relating to sorted physical checks to a second check processing station which encodes magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codelines onto physical checks, wherein the check processing apparatus comprises, inter alia, "a plurality of electronic labels associated with the plurality of physical check document trays such that each of the plurality of electronic labels is affixed to a corresponding one of the plurality of physical check document trays, each of the plurality of electronic labels including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) communication circuitry for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from a communication interface of the first check processing station, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the communication interface of the first check processing station to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the corresponding physical check document tray." Thus, claim 43 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

09/848,004

Applicant would like to respectfully point out that even if Copenhaver et al. ("Copenhaver") were to be modified in view of Yamanaka et al. ("Yamanaka"), and further in view of Boss, and still further in view of Vraa et al. ("Vraa"), this modified structure would not result in the structure recited in claim 43 of the present application. More specifically, for example, the modified structure of the proposed combination would not have an "a plurality of electronic labels...each of the plurality of electronic labels including...a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the communication interface of the first check processing station..." as recited in claim 43 of the present application. In this regard, Applicant would like to respectfully point out that an RFID transponder, such as disclosed in Vraa, has no processor for causing a physical display to display a visual message.

If the Examiner continues to reject claim 43 of the present application by continuing to make the proposed combination of Copenhaver, Yamanaka, Boss, and Vraa, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner explain how the resulting modified structure would include an electronic label which has the structure and operation as recited in claim 43. Absent an adequate explanation, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Claim 44 depends from claim 43 and is allowable for the reasons claim 43 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 44 further recites that the electronic label includes a first manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, directs the processor to cause the physical display to display information in sequential screens. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 44 in combination with the structure recited in claim 43. Thus, claim 44 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 45 depends from claim 44 and is allowable for the reasons claim 44 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 45 further recites that the electronic label includes a second manually-operable button electrically coupled to the

09/848,004

processor and for, when manually operated, allows an operator to send a signal to the communication interface of the first check processing station. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 45 in combination with the structure recited in claim 44. Thus, claim 45 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

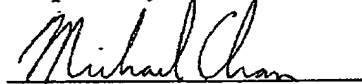
Claim 46 depends from claim 43 and is allowable for the reasons claim 43 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 46 further recites that the electronic label further includes an alerter electronically coupled to the processor and for, when driven by the processor, provides an audible alert signal. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 46 in combination with the structure recited in claim 43. Thus, claim 46 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 47 depends from claim 43 and is allowable for the reasons claim 43 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 47 further recites that each of the plurality of electronic labels has a unique address. None of the prior art including the prior art references of record discloses or suggests the structure recited in claim 47 in combination with the structure recited in claim 43. Thus, claim 47 patentably defines over the prior art including the prior art references of record, whether taken singularly or in combination, and is therefore allowable.

09/848,004

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Chan
Reg. No. 33,663
Attorney for Applicant

NCR Corporation, Law Department, WHQ3E
1700 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45479-0001
Tel. No. 937-445-4956/Fax No. 937-445-6794

MAR 29 2006